

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED  
Current Handling: n/a

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PTQ8979

E25

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ACTION INR-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 ACQ-00 INL-00 DODE-00 WHA-00 DS-00  
UTED-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 LAB-01 VCE-00 AC-01 NSAE-00  
PM-00 ACE-00 TEST-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 DRL-02 NFAT-00  
SAS-00 /004W

-----D875A1 131202Z /38

R 131134Z AUG 02  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7180  
INFO NSC WASHDC  
CIA WASHDC  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 002395

NSC FOR SALCEDO, AMB. MAISTO  
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD  
INR FOR FERNANDEZ

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, VE  
SUBJECT: POLITICAL UPDATE: AUGUST 12, 2002

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SUMMARY  
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1. CHAVEZ CLAIMED TO HAVE PROOF THAT SOME SUPREME JUSTICE  
TRIBUNAL (TSJ) MAGISTRATES ARE BEING MANIPULATED BY WEALTHY  
OUTSIDE PARTIES AND DECLARED THAT THE COUNTRY WILL NOT  
TOLERATE A RULING DENYING THAT THERE WAS A MILITARY  
REBELLION ON APRIL 11. FORMER TSJ MAGISTRATE CARLOS ESCARRA  
STATED THAT TSJ DECISIONS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN POLITICIZED. 7000  
TROOPS WERE SENT TO FORTIFY VENEZUELA'S COLOMBIAN BORDER. AT  
5PM, MVR DEPUTIES BARRETO, VARELA, AND TASCON PLAYED A TAPE  
WHICH THEY SAY IS A TELEPHONE INTERCEPT PROVING THAT LUIS  
MIQUILENA IS ATTEMPTING TO PRESSURE THE TSJ. TWO COLOMBIAN  
GUERRILLAS RECEIVED VISAS FROM THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR.  
MVR WILL PROPOSE A LAW TO DIMINISH PENA'S POWER BY REMOVING  
HIS COMMAND OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE (PM), AND CALLED  
MEMBERS OF THE PM FORCES TO DISOBEY PENA'S ORDERS TO  
"REPRESS THE PEOPLE." USG SUPPORT OF GOV'S DRUG CONTROL PLAN

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INSPIRED MORE SUPPORT FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR. OPPOSITION  
MARCH IN MARACAIBO COMMEMORATED APRIL 11. END SUMMARY.

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CHAVEZ CLAIMS OPPOSITION IS MANIPULATING TSJ  
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2. IN SUNDAY'S "ALO, PRESIDENTE," CHAVEZ CLAIMED THAT SOME  
SUPREME JUSTICE TRIBUNAL (TSJ) MAGISTRATES ARE BEING  
MANIPULATED BY WEALTHY OUTSIDE PARTIES AND ARE NOT LOOKING  
AT THE EVIDENCE IN THE CASE OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ACCUSED  
OF REBELLION. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE PROOF INDICATING WHICH  
MAGISTRATES ARE BEING BRIBED, AND SAID HE WILL RELEASE THE  
NAMES IF NECESSARY. CHAVEZ ALSO DECLARED THAT THE COUNTRY  
WILL NOT TOLERATE A RULING DENYING THAT THERE WAS A MILITARY  
REBELLION ON APRIL 11.

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3. THE TSJ IS MEETING TODAY, AUGUST 12, TO DISCUSS A  
RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT CHAVEZ, MOST LIKELY IN THE FORM OF A  
PUBLIC STATEMENT STRESSING ITS AUTONOMY, URGING RESPECT FOR  
ITS DECISIONS, AND DENOUNCING PRESSURE FROM BOTH THE GOV AND  
THE OPPOSITION. AT 5PM, MVR DEPUTIES BARRETO, VARELA, AND  
TASCON PLAYED A TAPE WHICH THEY SAY IS A TELEPHONE INTERCEPT  
PROVING THAT LUIS MIQUILENA IS ATTEMPTING TO PRESSURE THE  
TSJ.

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FORMER TSJ MAGISTRATE CRITICIZES POLITICIZED DECISIONS  
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4. CARLOS ESCARRA, FORMER TSJ MAGISTRATE WHO WORKED WITH 13  
OF THE CURRENT 20 MAGISTRATES, REPORTED IN AN INTERVIEW THAT  
THE TSJ HAS ALWAYS MADE POLITICIZED DECISIONS LARGELY  
INFLUENCED BY EXTERNAL FACTORS. HE ATTRIBUTED THE ELEVEN  
VOTES AGAINST THE TRIAL OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS TO  
"MIQUILENISMO," AND EXPRESSED CERTAINTY THAT AT LEAST 8 OF  
THOSE 11 WOULD HAVE VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE TRIAL IF MIQUILENA  
WAS STILL A GOV SUPPORTER. HIS OPINION IS THAT MIQUILENA,  
THE MILITARY OFFICERS, AND EVEN CHAVEZ SHOULD BE TRIED IN  
COURT, AND THAT THE COURT SHOULD USE A JURIDICAL PROCESS  
RATHER THAN A POLITICIZED ONE.

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SEVEN THOUSAND TROOPS SENT TO COLUMBIAN BORDER  
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5. VENEZUELA JUST ADDED 7,000 TROOPS TO ITS 30,000 ALREADY

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STATIONED ALONG THE BORDER WITH COLOMBIA. THE GOAL IS TO  
PREVENT IRREGULARS FROM THE COLOMBIAN WAR BETWEEN GUERILLAS  
AND PARAMILITARIES FROM LEAKING INTO VENEZUELA.

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GUERILLAS GAINING ENTRY TO VENEZUELA  
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6. POTENTIALLY EXPOSING A NEW LINK BETWEEN THE GOV AND THE  
COLOMBIAN GUERILLAS, THE UNIVERSAL CLAIMED THAT TWO  
COLOMBIAN GUERILLAS HAVE RECEIVED IMMIGRANT VISAS FROM THE  
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR: PEDROS CANAS SERRANO, A MEMBER OF  
THE CENTRAL COMMAND OF THE ELN, AND ALDO MOSCOTE FRAGOSO,  
ALSO KNOWN AS LUCAS IGUARAN, "EL ZAMBO," OR "EL GOAJIRO," AN  
ACTIVE FARC MILITANT DEVOTED TO ITS INTERNATIONAL  
ACTIVITIES.

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MVR HOPES TO WEAKEN PENA  
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7. THE NATIONAL TACTICAL COMMAND OF THE GOVERNMENT PARTY

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ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	INL-00	DODE-00	WHA-00	DS-00
	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	LAB-01	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00
	CAEX-01	PM-00	ACE-00	TEST-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02
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R 131134Z AUG 02  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7181  
INFO NSC WASHDC  
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 002395

NSC FOR SALCEDO, AMB. MAISTO  
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INR FOR FERNANDEZ

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SUBJECT: POLITICAL UPDATE: AUGUST 12, 2002

FIFTH REPUBLIC MOVEMENT (MVR) MET LAST WEEKEND AND DECIDED TO ATTEMPT TO PASS A LAW IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LIMITING THE POWERS OF ALCALDE MAYOR, ALFREDO PENA. THE POST OF ALCALDE MAYOR, MAYOR OF CARACAS CHARGED WITH COORDINATING

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THE FIVE MUNICIPAL MAYORS, CURRENTLY INCLUDES COMMAND OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE (PM). THE LAW PROPOSED BY MVR WOULD PUT ANOTHER OFFICIAL IN COMMAND OF THE PM. THE MVR ALSO CALLED THE PM FORCES TO DISOBEY PENA'S ORDERS TO "REPRESS THE PEOPLE."

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INCREASING SUPPORT OF GOV'S DRUG CONTROL PLAN  
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8. PRESIDENT MILDRED CAMERO OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION AGAINST THE USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS (CONACUID) REPORTED TO NASOFF THAT USG-GOV COOPERATION ON THE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PLAN PROJECTS BROUGHT IN SOME UNEXPECTED DIVIDENDS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF USG MONETARY ENDORSEMENT OF CONACUID'S 14 PROJECTS FUNDED AT USD 8M HAS CONVINCED MEMBERS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR THAT THE NATIONAL PLAN IS LEGITIMATE AND WORTHWHILE. CONSEQUENTLY, THE MERCANTIL AND PROVENCIAL BANKS HAVE OFFERED ABOUT USD 250K IN SUPPORT OF THE PROJECTS, CITING PRESS REPORTS OF USG BACKING AS THE REASON FOR THEIR TRUST.

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OPPOSITION MARCHED IN MARACAIBO  
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9. FOR THE FOUR-MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF APRIL 11, THE DEMOCRATIC COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND THE COALITION OF VENEZUELAN LABORERS (CTV) ORGANIZED A MARCH IN MARACAIBO, ZULIA. OPPOSITION MARCHERS OCCUPIED TWELVE BLOCKS IN A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE METROPOLITAN

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POLICE.

SHAPIRO

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